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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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* Reply submitted on behalf of the Twelve States members of the European Community.

** Reply submitted on behalf of the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Introduction

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, adopted resolution 47/71 of 14 December 1992 entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects". In paragraph 60 of the resolution, the General Assembly invited Member States to submit any further observations and suggestions to the Secretary-General by 1 March 1993 on peace-keeping operations, outlining proposals on specific items in order to allow for more detailed consideration by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, with particular emphasis on practical proposals to make these operations more effective. In paragraph 61 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a compilation of the above-mentioned observations and suggestions and to submit it to the Special Committee by 30 March 1993.

2. Pursuant to that invitation, the Secretary-General on 2 March 1993 addressed a note to the Governments of Member States transmitting the text of the resolution and reminding them of the invitation contained in the resolution, and requested them to submit any further observations and suggestions to the Secretary-General no later than 15 March 1993.

3. The replies received from Member States as at 30 March 1993 are given below. Any further replies will be issued as addenda to the present document.

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

DENMARK

[Original: English]

[23 March 1993]

The European Community and its member States have on numerous occasions underlined the great importance they attach to the use of peace-keeping operations by the United Nations in order to help maintain international peace and security - an importance which is underscored by their substantial contributions to the various peace-keeping operations launched by the United Nations, both in terms of personnel and financing.

The remarkable growth over recent years in the number of operations, their total size and cost, their expanded roles and responsibilities, have presented the United Nations as well as its Member States with a number of new challenges.

Against this background, the European Community and its member States would suggest that the following issues be given careful consideration at the forthcoming session of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations beginning on 19 April 1993:

(a) Further expansion of the Military Adviser's office and other changes within the Secretariat to strengthen coordination in particular with a view to improving the information flow and the planning capacity of the United Nations.

Plans for the establishment of an around-the-clock manned situation room at Headquarters.

(b) Ways and means through which Member States could be encouraged to develop stand-by arrangements for military and civilian personnel for participation in peace-keeping operations. Cooperation with the United Nations Stand-by Troops Planning Team.

(c) Establishment of appropriate data processing facilities within the Secretariat to monitor the composition of such arrangements and as a tool in planning and coordinating ongoing and future operations.

(d) Establishment of proper training modules for peace-keeping personnel.

(e) Development of a United Nations Logistic Doctrine, including possible establishment of depots for common user items for peace-keeping which are not readily commercially available.

(f) The growing range of civilian aspects of some peace-keeping operations, i.e. organizing and monitoring elections, monitoring human rights situations and the possibility of establishing a transitional authority.

(g) The financial aspects of peace-keeping operations and the growing demands on the Organization to finance ongoing and future operations.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[23 March 1993]

1. General remarks

The Nordic countries have always supported the United Nations peace-keeping activities to which the Nordic countries are committed both politically and in terms of providing resources.

In spite of the positive development in improving the overall functioning of the United Nations and its peace-keeping activities, a need still exists to take further measures in this field. In particular the new and unforeseen trends in the peace-keeping operations have revealed deficiencies that require improvements.

2. Suggestions for the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations

The Special Committee is the most important forum for in-depth discussions of specific and practical ideas aimed at efficiency in peace-keeping operations. As the number of peace-keeping operations has increased and become even more complex, the Nordic countries consider the work of the Committee even more vital and valuable.

As the Nordic countries have done in the last years, we will propose a limited number of items for consideration in the upcoming session of the Special Committee. These items are:

(a) Organization and effectiveness;

(b) Financing;

(c) Guidelines;

(d) Other matters.

(a) Organization and effectiveness

The Nordic countries welcome the recent achievements with regard to the organization and effectiveness in the Secretariat. We support the establishment by the Secretariat of the Working Group to draw up a plan for United Nations Stand-by Troops and are looking forward to the report by the end of the year. We hope it will support the United Nations efforts to respond quickly to demands for rapid deployment of peace-keeping forces in conflict areas.

We also welcome the establishment of a focal point for training and the demining expert in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

The Nordic countries have noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's decision to establish a senior police adviser in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, and will welcome the early appointment of a qualified civilian police officer to the position.

The Nordic countries suggest that job descriptions for the demining expert, training expert and the senior police adviser as well as the other desk officers in the Military Adviser's office and personnel in the Field Operations Division, should be provided to member States, thus facilitating the maximum cooperation for all parties involved.

The Nordic countries once again request the Secretary-General to consider whether relevant parts of the Field Operations Division should be transferred to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations so that a unified and integrated structure within the Secretariat can be established together with clear lines of responsibility and accountability which are essential for the effective and efficient management of peace-keeping operations.

The Nordic countries suggest that the Secretary-General consider restructuring the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. The military capacity within the Secretariat should continue to be strengthened to include a peace-keeping planning staff, an enhanced current operations staff as well as establishment of a situation room manned 24 hours a day.

(b) Financing

The Nordic countries welcome the establishment of the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund established by the General Assembly by resolution 47/217 of 23 December 1992. We hope that the Reserve Fund will facilitate proper

financing of the initial phase of peace-keeping operations and will be able to cover unforeseen expenditures.

The United Nations peace-keeping operations are facing serious financial difficulties. This situation is of great concern to the Nordic countries. Action must be taken to ensure adequate financing for the peace-keeping operations, based on the principle of collective responsibility, through payment of assessed contributions in full and on time.

The Nordic countries have always regarded the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) as an anomaly and have repeatedly stated that the financing of some components of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) constituted another exception to the rule of collective responsibility and must not create a precedent. Therefore, we welcome the Secretary-General's initiatives to place UNFICYP and the UNPROFOR/Bosnia and Herzegovina Command on normal financial terms.

The Nordic countries once again stress the need to delegate increased financial and administrative authority to the Force Commander or the Special Representative for a multi-component mission as a way of enhancing the performance of the mission. In this context, the Nordic countries suggest an urgent review of the present United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations for peace-keeping operations in order to increase the mission's capacity to adjust to new situations and specific requirements.

(c) Guidelines

The Nordic countries are of the view that the Special Committee should consider concrete steps to improve the security of United Nations personnel.

The Nordic countries consider the model Status-of-Force Agreement for peace-keeping operations (A/45/594 of 9 October 1990) to be a very important document for the creation of a well-defined working relationship between the United Nations and the host country.

The model is intended to serve as a basis for the drafting of individual agreements to be concluded between the United Nations and the countries on whose territory peace-keeping operations are deployed.

Regrettably, such individual agreements have not been concluded, giving rise to problems and uncertainty for the daily conduct of operations in the field. The Nordic countries, therefore, urge the Secretariat to increase its efforts to finalize the Status-of-Force Agreement at a very early stage, preferably before the deployment of a peace-keeping force.

The Nordic countries also consider the Model Agreement between the United Nations and Member States contributing personnel and equipment to United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/46/185 and Corr.1 of 23 May 1991) to be very important for creating a well-defined working relationship between the United Nations and the various troop-contributing countries.

As peace-keeping operations become increasingly complex, the need for such individual agreements becomes even more pressing. Therefore, the Nordic

countries urge the Secretariat to increase its efforts to finalize agreements with all contributing Member States.

The Nordic countries welcome the Secretary-General's decision to appoint a lead nation to formulate a United Nations logistics doctrine and standard operational procedures. The Nordic countries will support these efforts in any way possible.

The Nordic countries also see a further need for the development of directives in other areas within peace-keeping operations. We propose the following issues be considered:

- Communications both between contingents and between the United Nations in the field and Headquarters in New York.

- Command and control, including "Transfer of Authority".

- Deployment, rotation and withdrawal.

- Rules of engagement (standardization).

- Standard training manuals and training programmes with special attention to different categories of personnel.

(d) Other matters

The Nordic countries have noted with appreciation the increased flow of information from the Secretariat to Member States. We are also pleased to note the increased number of briefings on current operations. We welcome this development and expect that this trend will continue. It is also important to keep troop contributors regularly informed in particular on issues related to the safety of their troops.

Once again the Nordic countries would like to stress the need to receive on a regular basis a performance report of those peace-keeping operations which have open-ended mandates.